

# May 2014 Watershed E-News

## From the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

### What's Happening in Our Watersheds

#### Dead Dog Creek Phase II Stream Restoration Project Underway



Phase II of ravine and stream restoration began in late April along 2,750 linear feet of Dead Dog Creek east of Sheridan Road and north of 7th Street in Winthrop Harbor. The project includes water quality and sediment control bioengineering best management practices to stabilize the eroding stream channel and banks, restore the riparian area with native vegetation, and improve the quality of water as it flows to the Spring Bluff Forest Preserve and Illinois Beach State Park into Lake Michigan.

The \$675,401 project is funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant awarded to SMC. The project is anticipated to be completed in June weather permitting, and a walking tour is being planned for late summer. SMC, in cooperation with Winthrop Harbor, completed Phase I on the west side of Sheridan Road in 2013.

The project implements action recommendations developed by local resident, business, and government partners in the SMC-led Kellogg Creek Watershed-Based Plan. For questions about the project or to be added to the weekly project update list, contact Mike Prusila, [mprusila@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:mprusila@lakecountyil.gov) or call 847.377.7713 or 847.377.7700.

See [weekly project updates](#)

#### Conserve Lake County's Second Annual Native Plant Sale

Through May 31 Monday through Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm. (closed Memorial Day)  
32492 N. Almond Road, Grayslake (within the Almond Marsh Forest Preserve)

[Native Plant Sale information](#)

#### Harmful Algal Blooms, and Aquatic Weed Management

##### Algal Bloom Toxin Pilot Project

The Lake County Health Department (LCHD) Environmental Services assisted the Illinois EPA in 2013 in conducting a pilot project to assess the presence and distribution of toxins in blue-green algae blooms in Lake County recreational waters, including 30 popular swimming beaches from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Although climate conditions were less favorable for algae blooms than past years, toxins were found, although mostly at low concentrations. Overall, detectable concentrations of microcystin toxin were found in 71% of samples (sample size=178) at 28 of the 30 swimming beaches tested during concurrent routine *E. coli* sampling (i.e., algae may or may not have been present). Six samples had toxin concentrations greater than 20 parts per billion, the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline above which the acute health risks are considered "high". In addition, 75% of samples collected from active algae blooms exceeded 20 ppb. Additional sampling along with an education effort will occur in 2014.

See [IEPA algal bloom information](#)



### **Tips on Aquatic Weed Management**

Is your lake association responsible for aquatic weed management? LCHD offers up tips on creating an aquatic plant management plan with specific considerations for your lake, evaluation of management techniques, and writing requests for proposals for contracted work.

[Aquatic Plant Management Workshop Presentation](#)

### **Illinois Coastal Grant Program Applications Due May 30**

Applications will be accepted for environmental education and outreach projects and sustainable coastal planning projects. Application materials are available at the Illinois Coastal Grant Program [Website](#) including a grant information presentation. Applications will be accepted through **5 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 2014.**

### **Phone APP and Website Notify Lake County Beachgoers of Swim Bans**

This year, beachgoers have a new option for learning the latest news on swim bans at public beaches. In addition to the Lake Michigan swim bans posted on the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center website, beachgoers will be able to obtain information through an Android phone application created by the Great Lakes Commission. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, daily information is available about local Lake Michigan and inland lake swim bans through the Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center's website by visiting:

<http://health.lakecountyil.gov/Population/LMU/Pages/Beach-Advisory.aspx>.

The Health Department is sending information about Lake Michigan swim bans to the Great Lakes Commission, which has created a free phone application called myBeachCast available at <http://glin.net/beachcast/> for beaches in the eight Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. The phone app not only tells whether the beach is open or closed, but also temperature, humidity, visibility and wind speed at each beach. Throughout the summer, Health Department staff samples 12 beaches along Lake Michigan four days per week.

### **Chi-Cal Rivers Fund Requests for Proposals Due July 29**

The Chi-Cal Rivers Fund is a new public-private partnership funding opportunity designed to improve the health, vitality and public access of the waterways in the Chicago and Calumet region, and is open to Lake County North Branch Chicago River local governments and groups. In 2014, \$1million in grant funds was awarded in the Chicago and Calumet watersheds for green infrastructure, habitat enhancement and public-use improvement projects.

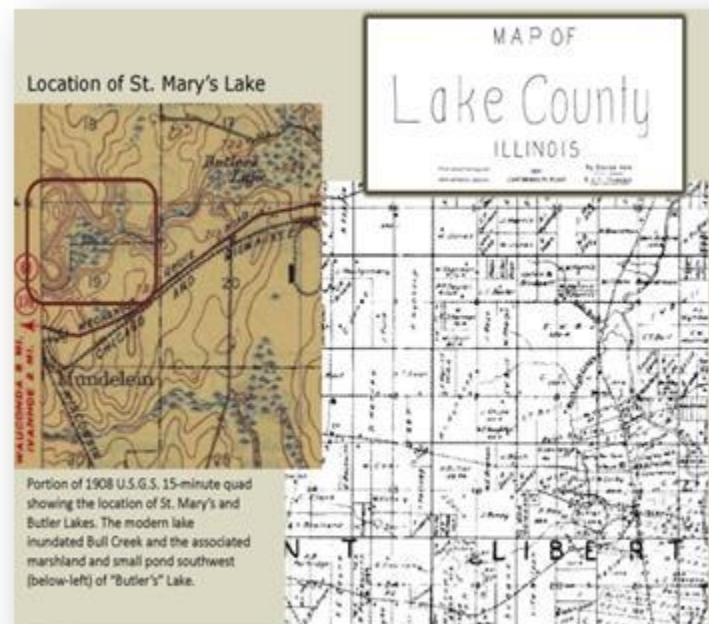
Request for Proposals will be announced June 17. Applications due July 29.

See [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) for more information.

### **Lawn To Lake Sustainability Practices**

As part of implementing Water2050, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) partnered with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant on the Lawn to Lake program promoting healthy lawn and landscape practices in the Great Lakes region. Lawn to Lake worked with the [Northwest Water Planning Alliance \(NWPA\)](#) and the [Metropolitan Planning Council \(MPC\)](#) to adapt the best practices. See [Lawn to Lake Sustainable Lawn & Landscape Practices](#) guide.

### **Bull Creek-Bull's Brook Council Sets 2014 Work Plan**



The Bull Creek-Bull's Brook Watershed Council met on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the beautiful and historic 1,000 acre St. Mary of the Lake University/Mundelein Seminary. Kathleen O'Conner Supervisor of Libertyville Township is the new Chair of the Watershed Council. Kathleen is supported by a Council leadership team of Clayton Kalweit, Mundelein Seminary; Jonathan Happ, Mundelein Park District; Fritz Cheseck, Loch Lomond Property Owners Association; Paul and Chris Geiselhart, Bull Creek Area Homeowners Association and Lake County Audubon; and Patty Werner, Lake County SMC.

The Council agreed on a work plan for 2014 that involves several new initiatives including partnering in a planner's forum to incorporate watershed plan recommendations in other community plans. Fritz Cheseck will lead this effort. Keith Gray of Integrated Lakes Management will work with Conserve Lake County to explore a partnership to host a riparian land owner workshop on best practices for lawn maintenance, managing stream buffers and controlling invasive plants. Past-Chair Ken Klick of Lake County Forest Preserves will head a working committee to promote and support educational programs for watershed high schools. Ken began the program by working with Mike Meiszala to present an in-school field trip at Warren Township High School in early May.

[April 2014 e-News](#)

### **Pilot Wetlands Study Underway**

Buffalo Creek, Mill Creek and North Mill Creek-Dutch Gap in the Des Plaines River basin were selected by US EPA as pilot watersheds for a "Landscape Level Wetland Functional Assessment" (LLWFA). The study will identify functional benefits and opportunities for wetlands preservation and restoration to provide watershed-level water quality, flood prevention and habitat benefits. The study is being conducted in 2014 by Tetra Tech under contract with US EPA Region 5 and is scheduled to be completed in 2014.

### **From the Lake County Forest Preserves *Ticks and You***

There are three species of ticks in Lake County, the American dog tick (a.k.a. wood tick), the deer tick, and the lone star tick. Dog ticks are one-quarter-inch long as adults, much smaller as juveniles, and are dark reddish-brown with irregular silvery patterns on their back. Dog ticks are not known to transmit Lyme disease. Dog ticks are the most common tick found throughout Lake County. Deer ticks are not as common in Lake County and are much smaller than dog ticks. Deer ticks are about one-eighth-inch long as adults and are dark brown to bright red with black legs. Deer ticks can carry bacteria which cause Lyme disease, as well as anaplasmosis and babesiosis.





Lone star ticks are similar in size to dog ticks, are reddish brown in color, and have a conspicuous white spot in the middle of the back (females) or faint white markings at the edge of the body (males). Lone star ticks do not transmit the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. Only two lone star ticks have been documented in Lake County (one at Independence Grove in 2011 and one at Fort Sheridan in 2013).

Until recent years, deer ticks had not been found in Lake County. Extensive surveys in the 1980’s and 1990’s did not identify any deer ticks in Lake County. However, recent findings have documented the occurrence of deer ticks in Lake County where ~37% carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Thirty-one percent of the deer ticks collected on District preserves in 2013 tested positive for Lyme disease. The presence of deer ticks has been confirmed at 17 District preserves (Cahokia Flatwoods, Fort Sheridan, Grainger Woods, Grant Woods, Grassy Lake, Heron Creek, Independence Grove, Lakewood, Lyons Woods, Middlefork Savanna, Prairie Stream, Ryerson Conservation Area, Singing Hills, Spring Bluff, Van Patten Woods, Wadsworth Savanna, and Wright Woods).

If you find or encounter a deer tick, please collect it, and place it in a Ziploc bag with a wet leaf. Label the bag with “Deer Tick”, your name, the date it was collected, and the name of the preserve where the tick was collected. Then send or deliver the bag to Tim Preuss, LCFP, 1899 W. Winchester Rd., Libertyville IL 60048. If possible, please include a map with the location marked where the tick was discovered.

If you find a tick that is attached to your skin:

- Use fine-tipped tweezers when removing the tick.
- Grasp the tick close to the skin surface and pull upward with slow, even pressure. Do not twist or pull the tick quickly; this causes the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. Do not squeeze the tick’s body.
- Once the tick is removed, disinfect the bite site and wash your hands with soap and water.
- Report the incident to your supervisor and Risk Management.
- Symptoms of Lyme disease include a "bull's-eye" rash accompanied by fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, and/or joint aches. If you have any signs or symptoms of a tick-borne disease in the month following a tick bite, seek medical help and inform your doctor of the tick bite.

To reduce exposure to ticks:

- Wear light-colored, protective clothing - long-sleeved shirts, long trousers, boots or sturdy shoes, and a head covering. Tuck trouser cuffs in socks and tuck in shirt tails.
- Apply insect repellant containing DEET primarily to clothes. Apply sparingly to exposed skin. Do not apply repellant directly to the face. Be sure to wash treated skin after coming indoors.
- Use repellents containing permethrin to treat clothes (especially pants, socks and shoes), but not skin. Always follow label directions.
- Walk in the center of trails so plants do not brush against you.
- Check yourself every two to three hours for ticks. Most ticks seldom attach quickly and rarely transmit a tick-borne disease until they have been attached for 24 hours.

- Prompt removal of ticks helps to prevent infection.

For additional information on ticks and tick-borne diseases, see:

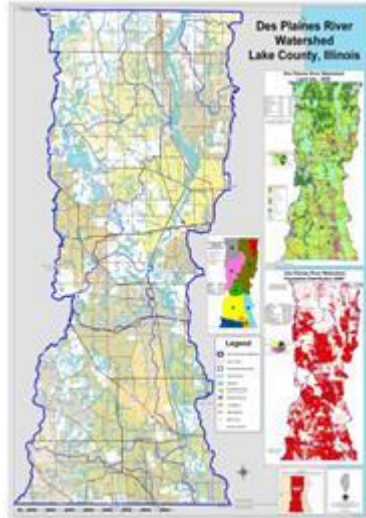

[Preventing Lyme Disease](#) (video)

[Lake County Forest Preserves Tick Information](#)

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hblyme.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>

# Watershed Planning, Activities, and What's Next

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| <p><u>Buffalo Creek Clean Watershed Partnership</u><br/>Thursday May 29, 2014<br/>9 am – 11 am<br/>Wheeling Public Works Facility<br/>77 W. Hintz Road, Wheeling<br/><b>Topic:</b> Stakeholder Engagement &amp; Open Space</p> <p><u>BCCWP Virtual Watershed Tour</u> – tour watershed issues and opportunities, watershed resources and documents</p>   |  <p><b>Des Plaines Watershed Focus of 319 Application</b><br/>Lake County SMC will be submitting an application for a Section 319 Clean Water Act Grant to complete watershed planning in the Des Plaines River Watershed between 2015-2017. If funding is awarded, a watershed-based plan will be developed for the Upper and Lower Mainstem subwatersheds, Newport Creek and Aptakisic Creek to complete planning for the entire watershed area in Lake County.</p> |  |
| <p><u>Flint Creek Partnership</u><br/>Thursday, June 12, 2014<br/>10 am<br/>Barrington Hills Village Hall<br/>112 Algonquin Road, Barrington Hills<br/>Future Meetings: September 11, December 11<br/>Kurt O. Thomsen, Coordinator<br/><a href="mailto:information@flintcreekwatershed.org">information@flintcreekwatershed.org</a><br/>262-880-5272</p> |  <p><u>GO LIVE at CFC's Flint Creek Savannah</u><br/>The preserve, at CFC's headquarters at 459 West Hwy 22 in Lake Barrington, is usually open only to CFC members and escorted guests. However, on the first Sunday afternoon of each month from 1-3pm June through October, the prairie will be open free to the public with a CFC member guide and educator. Lemonade and education will be provided.</p>  | <p><u>North Branch Planning Committee</u><br/>Future meetings: August 13, November 12<br/>Locations TBA<br/>Andrea Cline, SMC<br/><a href="mailto:acline@lakecountyil.gov">acline@lakecountyil.gov</a><br/>Rob Flood of North Shore Sanitary District presented water quality monitoring data for the Skokie River at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. See his <a href="#">presentation</a>.</p> |
| <p><u>9 Lakes Initiative</u><br/>The watershed plan is complete.<br/>Watch for it on in June on the <a href="#">Fox River Ecosystem Partnership</a> website.</p>   | <p>Tower Lakes Drain Watershed<br/><u>Rain barrels for sale!</u></p> <p>Lisa Woolford, <a href="mailto:lisa@bactrust.org">lisa@bactrust.org</a><br/>Barrington Area Conservation Trust<br/>847-387-3149</p>   | <p>Mill Creek Watershed and Flood Mitigation Plan<br/>The plan has been adopted by SMC and the County Board. SMC will be reaching out to watershed municipalities to adopt the plan. See the <a href="#">Mill Plan</a>.</p>  |

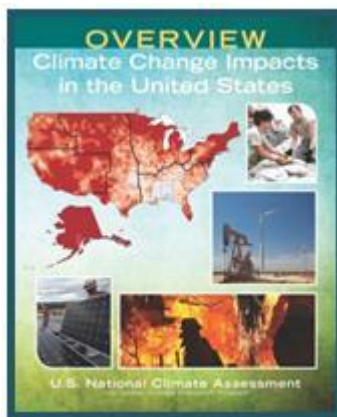
# Check It Out!



## EPA's How's My Waterway

People want an easy way to learn about their local waters, pollution problems, why they matter, and what's being done to restore and protect them. Rather than sifting through baffling scientific information stored in complex databases, an average citizen might say, "All I really want to know is: how's MY waterway? And please tell me in words I understand." EPA developed *How's My Waterway* to provide answers quickly and clearly, anywhere at any time.

<http://watersgeo.epa.gov/mywaterway/>



## Climate Change in the Midwest

3rd National Climate Assessment has been released. Extreme heat, heavy downpours, and flooding will affect infrastructure, health, agriculture, forestry, transportation, air and water quality, and more. Climate change will also exacerbate a range of risks to the Great Lakes. The full report and highlights of impacts for the Midwest are available online. Read more >>



## Lake Michigan Ecosystem Partnership's Healthy Ravines Toolkit

The Alliance for the Great Lakes and its partners has developed a toolkit to help local government and private landowners restore their ravines and thereby improve Great Lakes health. The resources in the Toolkit help identify environmental challenges facing their ravines, and provide a few tools that can be used to help implement projects and policies that best address those challenges. Generally speaking, the environmental challenges facing ravines fall into three (3) categories: 1) stormwater, 2) buffers, and 3) invasive and native species.





## Beyond the Basics: Making Green Stormwater Practices Pay Off For Your Community

September 9 & 10, 2014, Woodridge, IL

The Conservation Foundation, in partnership with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, is proud to present *Beyond the Basics 2014*. We are offering two new pre-seminar options on September 9th: a workshop on watershed based plans and ordinance reviews or a tour local green stormwater projects. September 10th offers 3 concurrent tracks with 4 sessions including a keynote session on innovative funding options for green stormwater projects and pro-grams, led by Charlotte Kaiser, The Nature Conservancy, and Eron Bloomgarden, EKO Asset Management Partners. This session will conclude with a presentation by Rebeca Bell, Bluestem Communications, on developing better public communication strategies to increase long-term success of green infrastructure projects.

Watch for more details at [The Conservation Foundation](http://www.conservationfoundation.org)

## Morton Arboretum's "Retrofitting Large Landscapes for Sustainability" Handbook

The [online handbook](http://www.mortonarb.org) for property owners, managers, and residents. The handbook is based on the idea that all parts of the landscape are interconnected and any change—even a small one—can improve the entire property, reduce its management budget, and help the environment at large.



## Missed the SMC/SWALCO rain barrel sale?

Limited supply of barrels and compost bins are available for purchase. [Products/prices](#)

## Invasive Aquatics, Plants

- <http://www.mapms.org/>
- <http://www.niipp.net/hydrilla/>

## Native Vegetation, Invasive Species, Scheduled Burns

- [http://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/weeds/Natural\\_Comm\\_Brochure\\_web.pdf](http://ipcm.wisc.edu/download/weeds/Natural_Comm_Brochure_web.pdf)
- [http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczy/Mistaken\\_Identity\\_Final.pdf](http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rnaczy/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf)
- <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/greenacres/wildones/handbk/wo21.html>
- [http://www.spencenursery.com/videos/maintenance\\_native\\_prairie\\_communities.php?display=text](http://www.spencenursery.com/videos/maintenance_native_prairie_communities.php?display=text)
- <http://www.nps.gov/miss/naturescience/prairestmain.htm>
- <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/visit/family-of-attractions/shaw-nature-reserve/gardens-gardening-at-shaw-nature-reserve/native-landscaping-for-the-home-gardener/native-landscaping-manual.aspx>
- <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=5651>

